(b) whether it is a fact that this could have arrested drop-out rates of students;

(c) if so, what is the status and allocation given to sports at the primary and secondary level;

(d) whether the infrastructure of sports at the school level is not sufficient; and

(e) if so; the reasons therefor and the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Sports and games are integral part of the subject Health and Physical Education which has been made compulsory from primary to secondary stage and is prescribed as an optional subject at the senior secondary stage in the schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and in almost all the States. Health and Physical fitness are among the key determinants for the overall development of the child and influence enrolment, retention and school completion rates significantly. This has been reiterated in the National Curriculum Framework-2005.

(d) and (e) Affiliation bye-laws of CBSE prescribe minimum requirement of infrastrcuture for physical education, States prescribe their own norms.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), a flagship programme of Government of India for the promotion of Universalisation of Elementary Education, recognises the importance of games, sports and skill development for improving quality of education at elementary and higher level, and promotes joyful, activity based learning by using a wide range of games in and outside classrooms.

Blueprint for setting up an IIT

1726. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that alumni of seven IITs are drawing up a blueprint to set up a new IIT in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what would be the location of this new IIT and what would be its sources of funding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) are governed by The Institutes of Technology Act, 1961. New IITs can only be set up as per that Act.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Children in Government schools

1727. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 85 per cent of children in the country receive education in Government primary schools;